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Message Text

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70
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01 /099 W
---------- 068346
R 102305Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5444
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3854

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, GT, HO
SUBJ: CIVIL AVIATION: GUATEMALA GOVERNMENT ACTION HARMS
HONDURAN INTERESTS

1. SUMMARY: J. J. WARREN, REPRESENTATIVE IN HONDURAS FOR
PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES, EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR EFFECTS OF
GOG DENYING PAN AM RIGHTS TO CONTINUE SERVING SAN PEDRO
SULA, HONDURAS WITH PRESENT SCHEDULE. HONDURAS COMMERCIAL
AND TOURIST INTERESTS ARE SEEKING SUPPORT OF CHIEF OF STATE
LOPEZ TO APPROACH GOG. WARREN'S CALL INFORMATIONAL AND
PAN AM SEEKING NO ACTION ON PART OF EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA.

2. BACKGROUND: RECENTLY THE GOG HAS TAKEN ACTIONS WHICH
EFFECTIVELY CANCEL OPERATIONS OF PAN AM BETWEEN SAN PEDRO
SULA AND GUATEMALA CITY. ALTHOUGH THESE ACTIONS ARE
DAMAGING TO HONDURAS THEY DO NOT WEIGH HEAVILY IN THE OVERALL INTER-
EST OF PAN AM OPERATIONS INTO GUATEMALA.
THE GOG MOTIVATION IS LESS THAN CLEAR. THE ACTION DOES
NOT SEEM TO BE SUFFICIENT TO BAIL OUT THE VERY WEAK
POSITION OF THE GUATEMALIAN STATE CARRIER AVIATECA.
THERE MAY BE SOME GENERAL POLICY CONSIDERATION IN THE
GOG WHICH MILITATES AGAINST HONDURAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE SAN PEDRO SULA AREA. THIS THESIS FINDS SUPPORT
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IN THE INACTION OF THE GOG TO COMPLETE ITS PORTION OF THE

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HIGHWAY CONNECTION INTO THE NORTH COAST OF HONDURAS VIA
HIGHWAY "CENTRAL AMERICA 13."

3. THE GOG DENIAL OF 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO
PAN AM BETWEEN SAN PEDRO SULA AND GUATEMALA CITY HAS
RAISED A FUROR IN SAN PEDRO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL
CIRCLES. A REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE HAS WRITTEN TO CHIEF
OF STATE LOPEZ AND IS SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT TO PRESENT
THEIR CASE. THEY FIND THAT THE PAN AM SERVICES ARE
AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE TOURISTIC AND INDUSTRIAL AND
COMMERCIAL PATTERN BEING GENERATED IN THE HONDURAN NORTH
COAST AREA CENTERED IN SAN PEDRO. THE GOG ACTION WILL
PARTIALLY ISOLATE SAN PEDRO LEAVING ONLY FEEDER AIR SERVICES
BY SAHSA CONNECTING TO GUATEMALA CITY. PROJECTS FOR HOTELS,
THE AIRPORT AND EXPANDING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION APPEAR TO
BE PREJUDICED BY THE GOG ACTION.

4. ALTHOUGH ECHOING THE CONCERNS OF THE HONDURAN INTERESTS,
THE PAN AM REPRESENTATIVE IS NOT REQUESTING ACTION ON THE
PART OF EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA, NOR IS THE EMBASSY
AWARE THAN PAN AM HAS BROACHED THE EFFORTS OF THE GOG
ACTION UPON HONDURAS AS AN ACTION ITEM TO THE DEPARTMENT.
WARREN POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GOG ACTION WILL ELIMINATE
U.S. CARRIER SERVICES TO HONDURAS LEAVING IN QUESTION ANY
ADDITIONAL HONDURAN SERVICES TO THE U.S.

5. AT THE MOMENT WE CAN PROVIDE NO SURE ESTIMATE OF THE
RESPONSE OF CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ TO THE SAN PEDRO APPROACH.
HE IS A SHARE HOLDER IN SAHSA, WHICH MAY MARGINALLY BENEFIT,
BUT THE SAN PEDRO INTERESTS ARE PUSHING WITH GREAT
ENERGY.
SANCHEZ

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